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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Thomas **Schlesinger** (Austria)

Programme questions

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 1. Political affairs

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 11 June 1998, the Committee considered revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 1, Political affairs.

2. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs introduced programme 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Queries were raised on the proposed revision of subprogramme 1.1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, related to the role and designation of the Department of Political Affairs as the United Nations focal point for post-conflict peace-building. It was pointed out that the mandate of the subprogramme was also reflected in General Assembly resolutions 52/13 of 20 November 1997, entitled "Culture of peace" and 52/15 of the same date, entitled "Proclamation of the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace", and that those resolutions should be reflected at the end of the proposed paragraph 1.6 by adding the following phrase:

> "In this capacity, the Department of Political Affairs will promote a culture of peace and play an active role in the process of preparing a declaration and a programme of

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action on a culture of peace, including a programme of activities that will mark the year 2000: the International Year for the Culture of peace".

The view was further expressed that in the legislative mandate of subprogramme 1.1, Assembly resolutions 52/13 and 52/15 should be added.

4. Queries were raised on paragraph 1.19 on the role of subprogramme 1.4, Security Council affairs, related to research and the preparation of analytical studies on the application and interpretation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to the activities of the Council and its provisional rules of procedures. It was pointed out that while that activity was the prerogative of the Office of Legal Affairs, the programme narrative of both programme 1 and programme 27 included it as part of their objective. Similarly, in paragraph 1.24, under subprogramme 1.6 (new subprogramme 1.5), Decolonization, it was pointed out that references to the same activities were also included. Information was sought from the Secretariat, therefore, on the apparent duplication of functions.

5. Concern was expressed on the proposed deletion of General Assembly resolution 50/84 of 15 December 1995, entitled "Question of Palestine", as a legislative mandate for the programme. The view was expressed that while resolutions 52/49 of 9 December 1997, entitled "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People", and 52/50 of the same date, entitled "Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat", provided the latest mandates for the subprogramme, they did not completely supersede the provisions of resolution 50/84, in which the activities called for were of a greater scope.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended approval of the proposed revisions to programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Restore General Assembly resolution 50/84 as a legislative mandate of subprogramme 1.7 (new subprogramme 1.6), Question of Palestine;

(b) Take note of the assurances by the Secretariat that consultations will be held with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, referred to in paragraph 5 of the proposed revisions to programme 1 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, on subprogramme 1.6, Decolonization;

(c) In the legislative mandate under subprogramme 1.4, Security Council affairs, add General Assembly resolutions 51/209 of 17 December 1996, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization", and 52/161 of 15 December 1997, entitled "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization";

(d) In the legislative mandate under subprogramme 1.6 (new subprogramme 1.5), Decolonization, add General Assembly resolutions 51/209 and 52/161.